

**Amendments to the Specification:**

*Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 21-22 with the following amended paragraph:*

The Figure 1 shows a diagrammatic software architecture representation of a medical diagnostic system 10 having a software component 'Service Component Framework' (SCF) 12, wherein the service component framework 12 is configured for actively connecting software component Plug-ins 14 and Clients 16.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 25 through page 5, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:*

The component framework 12 according to the invention is a software component itself (i.e., embodied in a computer readable medium), which is indicated as a service component framework (SCF), and defines one or more roles (RIs) (for example, as indicated by reference numerals 18 and 20) to which one or more software components (Plg a, Plg b, Plg c), as indicated by reference numerals 141, 142, and 143, respectively, can be plugged-in. ~~These~~ The software component plug-ins 14 provide some kind of service (Svc a1 - Svc c2) via their interface, which wherein a plug-in can range from a software representation of a scarce hardware resource, e.g. image processing nodes which provide services like noise reduction or image subtraction, to some piece of logical functionality, e.g. a spelling checker. This means that a software component plug-in 14 contains is a container of one or more services (i.e., one or more functionalities specific to the corresponding plug-in). For example, as illustrated in Figure 1, plug-in 141 (Plg a) contains a service 22 (Svc a). Plug-in 142 (Plg b) contains two services (Svc b1) and (Svc b2), indicated by reference numerals 24 and 26, respectively. Plug-in 142 contains two services (Svc c1) and (Svc c2), indicated by reference numerals 28 and 30, respectively. Next In addition to the plug-ins 14, there are usually clients 16 that use the functionality provided by the component framework

12 and plug-ins 14 as a whole, via a suitable connection, for example, computer or network connection 1. The service component framework 12 is active in configured for actively connecting interfaces of plug-ins 14 and providing, via the respective roles (18,20), the functionality of these interfaces to other clients 16.